

REMARKS

These remarks are responsive to the Office Action mailed on October 13, 2005. Claims 1-14 are currently pending in the application. The Examiner has rejected all pending claims.

Information Disclosure Statement Notice

The Examiner asserted that the Information Disclosure Statement filed February 17, 2004 failed to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(2) which requires a legible copy of each cited non-patent literature publication. Applicants respectfully submit that the Nordson Corporation, ProBlue™ 4 Adhesive Melters, Brochure, 2002 was included with the Information Disclosure Statement (IDS) filed on February 17, 2004. Attached to this Office Action Response is a photocopy of the IDS and associated return receipt postcard with the Office of Initial Patent Examination acknowledging receipt of all items listed on the postcard including copies of the cited references. An additional courtesy copy of this reference is also included herewith. Since Applicants have established that all cited references were received by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, as acknowledged by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Applicants respectfully request that an initialed PTO-1449 (copy enclosed) listing the brochure be returned to Applicants' counsel.

Rejection of Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) stating that every feature of the claim was not shown in the drawings because the adhesive dispenser was only illustrated in phantom.

Applicants respectfully submit that 37 C.F.R. § 1.83(a) does not require that each feature of the claim must be shown in a solid line drawing. A drawing or

portion of a drawing that is in dashed lines is a drawing nonetheless. The drawing clearly depicts an adhesive dispenser and even assigns the adhesive dispenser a reference character. Moreover, the Applicants have not found any rule under 37 C.F.R. § 1.84 or the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure stating that drawing figures in dashed format cannot be used to support a claim feature. However, to expedite the matter, Applicants have enclosed herewith a replacement sheet showing the dispenser 12 of Fig. 1 in solid lines instead of dashed lines. Accordingly, the objection should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,283,690 to Munson (hereinafter the "Munson reference"). Claim 1 recites "a coupling member proximate to said top surface of said base to removably secure the adhesive dispenser to said top surface." The apparatus disclosed in the Munson reference fails to include a coupling member proximate to the top surface of the base to removably secure an adhesive dispenser to the top surface. The spring clips 20 of the apparatus disclosed in the Munson reference removably secure a telephone. The Examiner stated that the adhesive dispenser is not being positively claimed, and alleges that the coupling member/flange (20) is "configured to secure a device/dispenser to the top surface." In other words, the Examiner is arguing that the telephone base of Munson inherently has the ability to removably secure an adhesive dispenser to its top surface as required by claim 1, and as required to meet the law on anticipation. However, the Examiner has provided no evidence that an adhesive dispenser exists in such a configuration and with such dimensions (i.e., those of a telephone) that it may be removably secured to Munson's telephone base using the

disclosed coupling member/flange (20) of Munson. Established case law requires that "the examiner must provide some evidence or scientific reasoning to establish the reasonableness of the examiner's belief that the functional limitation is an inherent characteristic of the prior art." Ex parte Skinner, 2 USPQ 2d 1788, 1789 (B.P.A.I 1986). In the present case, it is not reasonable to suggest that an adhesive dispenser could be removably coupled to Munson's base which is very specifically designed to hold a telephone. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by the Munson reference, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 2 and 6 both depend from independent claim 1 and therefore include all of the limitations of independent claim 1. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 2 and 6 are allowable over the references of record for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 6, and 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 2,956,367 to Lyons (hereinafter the "Lyons reference"). Like Munson, the apparatus disclosed in the Lyons reference fails to disclose a coupling member proximate to the top surface of the base to removably secure an adhesive dispenser to the top surface. The coupling member/flange with a horizontal leg 59 clearly is not disclosed to removably secure an adhesive dispenser. Again, the disclosure of the Lyons reference teaches removably securing a telephone to a base. The Examiner again stated that the dispenser is not being positively claimed. For the same reasons stated above with respect to the Munson reference, Applicants respectfully submit that the Lyons references fails to amount to a proper anticipatory reference. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by the Lyons reference and this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 6 and 7 depend from independent claim 1 and therefore include all of the limitations of independent claim 1. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 6 and 7 are allowable over the references of record for at least the same reasons as independent claim 1.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,740,851 to Woodlief et al. (hereinafter the "Woodlief reference") in view of U.S. Patent No. 1,782,898 to Hunter et al. (hereinafter the "Hunter reference").

The Manual of Patent Examining Procedure §2143 states: "[t]o establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations."

The Examiner states that the Woodlief reference teaches an apparatus in Figs. 1 and 2 of that patent comprising "a base (38) with a sidewall and top surface," among other elements. The Examiner admits that Woodlief fails to teach that the base includes a drawer, sliding shelf or swing out plate but points to the Hunter reference as teaching a "base (10) for a machine that includes a drawer (11) therein." The Examiner concludes that "it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the apparatus of Woodlief by using an alternate base therein,

i.e., using the base of Hunter instead of the base presently used therein, to provide a base having the additional feature of article storage."

The Hunter reference specifically pertains to a casting machine and, even more particularly, to a centrifugal casting machine for making small metal castings such as gold castings used in dental work. See page 1, lines 7-10 of the Hunter reference. The casting machine of Hunter generally includes a melting furnace 12 and a centrifugal casting stand 13 secured to the base 10. Molten metal, presumably melted in the furnace 12, is deposited within a crucible 27. The crucible 27 is then rotated by way of a spring actuated system associated with stand 13 to throw the molten metal radially outward into a mold 38. In contrast to this, claims 1 and 8 set forth an adhesive dispenser that is nonanalogous to a centrifugal casting machine. An adhesive dispenser is used to dispense adhesive in various manufacturing operations, such as through the use of hoses, manifolds, valves, etc., for purposes such as securing various substrates together, or securing parts of products together during a manufacturing operation. One of ordinary skill in the adhesive dispenser art would not look to the art of centrifugal casting machines to supply improvements to the adhesive dispenser. The Woodlief reference merely states that element 38 is a support surface "such as a table top." There is no suggestion or motivation in the Woodlief reference or the Hunter reference to indicate that the table top 38 should be replaced with the casting machine base of the Hunter reference. Any suggestion to do so could have only arisen from an improper hindsight analysis as opposed to any reasonable basis for determining that one of ordinary skill in the art of adhesive dispensers would turn to the centrifugal casting machine art for possible modifications to an adhesive dispenser. For these reasons,

Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner has failed to present a *prima facie* case of obviousness and the rejection of claims 1-14 should therefore be withdrawn.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-14 are allowable.

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite issuance of this application.

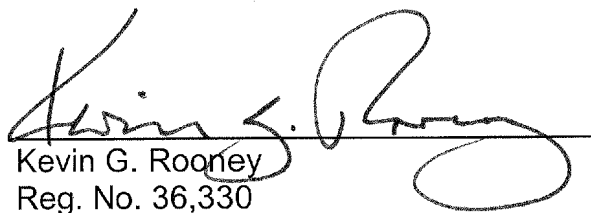
Petition for Extension of Time

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a one month extension of time.

Applicants do not believe any other fees are due in connection with filing this response other than the extension fee. However, if any fees are necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment or fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,

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